

MINUTES
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Oct 13, 2014

1. ROLL CALL

Those present were; Sharon O'Leary, Cherese Montgomery, Jim Wardell, Rick Accountius, JD Birchmeier, and Amy Saunders.

Those Absent; Doug Golliher and Council Liaison Brian Bagley

Staff Present: Jeff Friesner, Jennifer Wojniak

2. APPROVED AGENDA

Motion by Sharon O'Leary to approve the agenda, seconded by Amy Saunders, motion passed

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES

Motion by Sharon O'Leary to approve the agenda with an amendment of the previous month's minutes by Ms. Saunders. She asked to add her name to last month's minutes attendees. Motion passed, 6-0.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Jeff stated that the City will start receiving a draft for the Recreation Master Plan but staff needed some things changed before it is presented. There is an outline in process with five sections. The end of November is when the plan is projected to be ready. PRAB will receive it in December 2014, then on to Council the first of the year, 2015. The Master Plan highlights programming, events and gives direction for planning the future.

Sharon had concerns that because of the holidays, the Master Plan might get buried and she doesn't want things to get over looked. There are also concerns that there will be two new board members that will be replaced in January when the document is set to be finalized. The new members won't have the history of this document.

Sharon asked how the City would see public Input. Jeff responded that in the past, public was notified on-line, and he has hopes to do that again. Sharon then asked if this will be after January. Jeff responded that he will know more by the November board meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Cherese asked about the feasibility Study for the pool and ice rink. Jeff said that the City has offered a contract to a company, but can't share their name until they sign the contract.

Cherese asked about putting information about the feasibility study out for the public at the Parade of Lights. Jim questioned if the Parade of Lights is the right forum and that they may not get the right feedback. Sharon said that most people end up at Roosevelt Park and we would have a captive audience and thinks that an information board should go up. Cherese agreed that it was a great location.

6. ON-GOING ITEMS UPDATE

Saturday was the Dry Creek Community Park event. Thank you to the PRAB members who were in attendance. There was a nice turnout for the event.

The Starburst award was presented to the City from the Colorado Lottery. Rick wondered who was responsible for getting that award. Jeff stated that Paula Fitzgerald was instrumental in the award.

The turf at Dry Creek won't be usable until fall of 2015.

Rick was approached by a resident who would like to see horseshoe pits at the park. Adding two into the park would cost minimal amount of money. Sharon has concerns about liability and safety of the horseshoe pits.

Jim stated that overall the turnout was great and there were lots of kids. Sharon thought that there would be more negative response because of how slow the process was in getting the new park.

Amy was concerned that there were two faded danger signs posted at the park at the 18th Frisbee hole. Jeff will look into it.

J.D. commented on the removal of the playground at Garden Acres Park on October 20th. Jeff said that the new playground will be the first thing added after the Master Plan is finalized. There are concerns on where to locate the new playground due to safety concerns. It could be put back by the ball fields, or out closer to the neighborhood.

Sharon liked to see the park restroom closures on her City utility bill. Amy also said that in the bathroom stalls at the Recreation Center, there are also notices of park closures. Jeff stated that they are also posted on the restroom doors at each park. Some of the community park's bathrooms will stay open through November after all the field athletics have ended.

7. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Jeff went over financial slides with the board members. He stated that revenues are good this year. As of 9-30-14 recreation revenue is up. Revenue will be \$400,000 over the budgeted amount at year end.

Starting late August, there won't be access to Sunset Middle School, and Longs Peak Middle School is thinking about dropping their afterschool programs. Intramural soccer will still go on through the City. After Karen Pierce left, the middle school programs have been removed.

Centennial Pool is going to convert from gas chlorine to an erosion system, which is more expensive. There was \$8,000 requested in the proposed budget for next year for additional chemicals.

Looking at microchip and pin scanner at the front desk at the Recreation Center, along with new office chairs.

It is proposed to have two new ¾ time positions available due to the Affordable Care Act. The first one will be a fitness coordinator. The current coordinator oversees 155 classes each week along with training staff and providing customer service. The second will be a swim lesson coordinator. This position will be on deck during swim lessons to talk with parents, and evaluate instructors.

A total of \$71,000 has been requested to increase pool staff wages.

Cherese would like more diverse swim instructors, age being one of them. Jeff stated that because of the level of pay, it is hard to hire mature instructors. They are currently looking at the pay structure in order to reward long term, quality employees. Cherese then asked about benefits that can be added. Jeff stated that all the employees in the City can purchase a pass to the Recreation Centers by paying the taxes for the part time employees.

Revenue for 2015 are proposed to increase by \$200,000

Sharon asked if the increased revenues will work against the City in the future. Can we earmark this money for the future? Jeff stated that all the additional revenues will go back to the general fund.

Cherese brought up the sound system at Centennial Pool. Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. All the high schools have swim meets at Centennial Pool and it would be nice to have a new sound system. Jeff is not sure if the City owns the system or if it is the school districts property.

Jeff then discussed capital projects. There is a proposed \$255,000 in PR-102 that will cover filters at Sunset pool, at \$93,000. This money will also help with resurfacing the lap pool at the Recreation Center, and work done on the waterslides.

Upcoming events are Oct 25th, the Halloween Parade, Nov 8th, turkey Trot, and Dec 12 & 13th Parade of Lights.

Centennial Pool will oversee all aquatics. Sara Taylor is the new program supervisor and the new aquatic specialist will start soon.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD

J.D Birchmeier won't be at PRAB in November, he will be out of the country. He also stated that there are still no ducks at Jim Hamm Park, but there was a flock of mountain Blue Birds.

9. PUBLIC INVITED TO BE HEARD

Karen Kochanski-2219 Watersong Circle, Longmont.

Karen had questions about the feasibility study. Jeff explained that the pool listed in the study isn't Kanemoto pool. The Recreation Master is about activities and events. The Pool Feasibility Study is a plan to study a competitive pool/ice rink facility.

Karen then asked why the bathrooms needed to be closed for the season. Jeff stated that it's because there isn't heat in most of the bathrooms. Some of the community parks will stay open until athletics are over at the end of November.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn by Sharon O'Leary, was seconded by Cherese Montgomery at 7:52pm. Motion passed 6-0.